

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

By this amendment, Claims 1-47 have been cancelled. Claims 48-59 have been added. Hence, Claims 48-59 are pending in the application.

ALL INVENTORS HAVE SIGNED AN INVENTOR DECLARATION

The Office Action states that the present application fails to include the signature of Frederic E. Herrmann. A copy of Frederic E. Herrmann's signature on the declaration was previously submitted. Mr. Herrmann's signature appears on the same line as Ramachandra Bethmangalkar's signature. For the convenience of the Examiner, a substitute copy of the declaration that Frederic E. Herrmann signed accompanies this response. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's observation regarding the declaration has been addressed.

THE PENDING CLAIMS ARE PATENTABLE OVER THE CITED ART

Claims 1-47 have been cancelled; consequently, it is submitted that the rejections to Claims 1-47 have been rendered moot.

Each of the pending claims recites a combination of elements that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art.

For example, Claim 48 recites:

A method implemented by a secondary server to maintain a secondary directory, comprising:

receiving notification from a primary server that a particular update has been made by the primary server to a primary directory;
in response to the notification, making the particular update to the secondary directory such that the second directory mirrors the primary directory;

receiving a request, from a client, to make the particular update to the secondary directory, wherein the client sends the request because the client has not received confirmation that the primary server has made the particular update to the primary directory;

determining that the particular update cannot be made to the secondary directory because the particular update has already been made to the secondary directory as a result of receiving the notification from the primary server; and

in response to the determination that the particular update has already been made to the secondary directory, the secondary server sending an indication to the client that the particular update was successfully made to the secondary directory.

The above-combination of elements is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,589 issued to Hirashima et al. ("*Hirashima*") and Cook (Storage Tips, Journaling vs. scoreboarding, 02 Oct 2001) ("Cook").

For example, no portion of *Hirashima* discloses, teaches, or suggests the element of "in response to the determination that the particular update has already been made to the secondary directory, the secondary server sending an indication to the client that the particular update was successfully made to the secondary directory" featured in Claim 48. Thus, in the approach of *Hirashima*, if the supplier side directory server 1s becomes inoperable (a) after a change, which has been made to the supplier side directory, is replicated to the consumer side directory, but (b) before a return code has been returned to a requesting client, then the approach of *Hirashima* suffers from the same problems discussed in the Applicants application and overcome in the pending claims. While *Hirashima* teaches that the supplier side directory server 1s contains an error judgment program 13 that rewrites a return code to "LDAP_SUCCESS" when the replication record 70 was correct (See FIG. 2, FIG. 17, and their accompanying description), *Hirashima* lacks any suggestion or teaching that the consumer side directory server 1c performs the above-quoted element.

Further, no portion of *Hirashima* discloses, teaches, or suggests the element of “receiving a request, from a client, to make the particular update to the secondary directory, wherein the client sends the request because the client has not received confirmation that the primary server has made the particular update to the primary directory” featured in Claim 48. Likewise, *Cook* contains no disclosure or suggestion of the above quoted elements.

Similarly, independent Claims 52 and 56 feature elements similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 48, except that Claims 52 and 56 are recited in machine-readable medium and apparatus format respectively. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 48, 52, and 56 feature at least one element that is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Thus, each of Claims 48, 52, and 56 are patentable over the cited art and are each in condition for allowance.

Claims 49-51, 53-55, and 57-59 are dependent claims, each of which directly depends on one of the claims discussed above. Each of Claims 49-51, 53-55, and 57-59 is therefore allowable for the reasons given above for the claim on which it depends. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time.

CONCLUSION


For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any fee shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On June 20, 2005 By


Angelica Maloney